

Amendments to the specification:

On page 1, after the title of the invention, please insert the following:

CROSS-REFERENCE

The invention described and claimed hereinbelow is also described in PCT/DE 03/01768, filed on May 30, 2003 and DE 102 61 611.6, filed December 27, 2002. This German Patent Application, whose subject matter is incorporated here by reference, provides the basis for a claim of priority of invention under 35 U.S.C. 119 (a)-(d).

On page 1, line 3, please amend the heading as follows:

~~Prior Art~~ Background of the Invention

On page 1, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

The invention is based on an interconnection element for a multiphase winding that is comprised of coils and is part of an electrical machine, in particular a brushless mini motor, ~~as generically defined by the preamble to claim 1.~~

On page 2, line 4, please amend the heading as follows:

~~Summary~~ Advantages of the Invention

On page 2, please amend the paragraph contained in lines 6-20 as follows:

The interconnection element according to the present invention[[,]] with ~~the characteristics of claim 1~~ has the advantage that using bent wires for the electric conducting strips achieves a drastic reduction in the metal-related material costs for the interconnection element since in particular, this eliminates the enormous material waste generated by stamping, which can be up to 80% with the known interconnection element. The material waste is limited solely to the trimming of the wire ends possibly required by the manufacturing process. The substantial elimination of material waste also advantageously reduces disposal costs. Using simple wire-bending – the wires can have a round or polygonal cross section (rectangular, square, hexagonal, etc.) – makes it possible to replace stamping dies with inexpensive bending and handling tools. Plants that do not require a separate stamping station can manufacture the interconnection element according to the present invention by using the simple, inexpensive wire bending process, which can be implemented for only minimal investment costs, thus permitting companies to increase their real net output.

On page 2, please delete the paragraph contained in lines 22-24 in its entirety.

On page 3, please delete the paragraph contained in lines 6-7 in its entirety.

On page 3, line 9, please amend the heading as follows:

Brief Description of the Drawings

On page 3, line 24, please amend the heading as follows:

Detailed Description of the Exemplary Embodiment Preferred

Embodiments

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 4-5 as follows:

The interconnection element 10, an exploded view of which is shown from above in Fig. 2 and from below in Fig. 3, has an annular support 20 made of plastic that has a total of four coaxial channels 23 – 26, each for accommodating one of a total of four bent wires 27 through 30 that serve to interconnect the coils 12. Two channels 24 and 26 are radially offset in a plane of the support 20, i.e. are concentric to each other. The upper channel 23 and the lower channel 26 are axially offset in relation to the channels 24, 25 in the shared middle plane of the support 20 and have channel openings 231 and 261 in their outer annular wall. The upper channel 23 is also offset radially inward in relation to the channels 24 and 25. The corresponding bent wires 27 through 30 are accommodated in the channels 23 through 26 and are fixed therein by means of two annular cover elements 31, 32 made of plastic that are placed axially against the support 20 from above and below. The upper cover element 31 closes the upper channel 23 ~~25~~ and, with axially downward-protruding closing bodies 33

that project radially beyond the cover element 31, partially covers the two middle channels 24, 25. The lower cover element 32 closes the lower channel 26 with the wire 30 contained therein and has downward-protruding bracing struts 34 disposed offset from one another on its circumference, which, when the interconnection element 10 is placed against the end surface of the yoke ring 15, protrude between the wound stator teeth 16 and rest radially against the inner wall 40 of the yoke ring 15 with frictional, nonpositive engagement. Both of the cover elements 31, 32 are fastened to the support 20, which can be carried out, for example, by means of clips, gluing, or ultrasonic welding.